

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 13960

FOL MSG FM SURABAYA SENT ACTION JAKARTA INFO MEDAN
ON 13 NOV BEING REPEATED TO YOU FOR ACTION

SURABAYA 0728

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: EAST JAVA ELECTION POLITICS

REF: SURABAYA 0680

1. NEW BPAO JOAN GIBBONS AND I CALLED ON GOVERNOR AND MRS NOER NOVEMBER 12, AND DURING THE CALL THE GOVERNOR AGAIN EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE THAT HIS RESIGNATION WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY PRESIDENT SUHARTO IN JANUARY 1976. HE SAID HE HAS AGAIN ASKED FOR POSTING ABROAD, SPECIFICALLY AS AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND. MRS. NOER SAID HE HAS SERVED AS GOVERNOR FOR EIGHT YEARS AND NEEDS A CHANGE. DESPITE HIS EARLIER REMARKS (REFTEL), I HAVE THE FEELING THAT HE IS SINCERELY PRESSING FOR RETIREMENT IN HOPES OF SECURING AMBASSADORSHIP OR PERHAPS MINISTERIAL POST EARLY NEXT YEAR. I ALSO SUSPECT HE BELIEVES ELECTORAL PERIOD WILL SUBJECT HIM TO PHYSICAL STRAIN INJURIOUS TO HIS HEALTH.

2. POLICE CHIEF OF SURABAYA, COLONEL SUNARDI SPECULATED PRIVATELY A FEW DAYS AGO THAT "A POLICE COLONEL AND NAVY COLAFEL WERE LEADING CONTENDERS TO REPLACE NOER." REFERENCE TO "NAVY COLONEL" CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBABLY MEANS REGIONAL SECRETARY TRIMARJONO S.H., WHO IS A MARINE

COLONEL, AND IS HIGHLY-REGARDED, PARTICULARLY BY STUDENT AND UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY. POLICE COLONEL MUST MEAN SOEDARSONO, FORMER BUPATI OF SIDOARJO, WHO WAS LEADER GRANTEE EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND HAS VERY FAVORABLE LOCAL REPUTATION FOR HONESTY AND ABILITY. HOWEVER, ANOTHER SOURCE REPORTS THAT SOEDARSONO'S PENDING APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY GOVERNOR---WHICH WOULD HAVE MADE HIM LEADING CONTENDER---HAS BEEN VETOED BY BRAWIJAYA DIVISION

CG WITARMIN, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN. SPECULATION IS THAT WITARMIN WISHED TO KEEP FIELD OPEN IN CASE ARMY COMES UP WITH GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE. ANOTHER NAME BEING BRUIED AROUND IS RUKMINTO, AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE.

3. NOER'S REPLACEMENT WOULD INTRODUCE ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY INTO EAST JAVA SCENE, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF MANEUVERING NOW UNDERWAY IN PRE-PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD. FOR EXAMPLE, RELIABLE SOURCE INDICATES ALI MURTOPO RECENTLY SPENT THREE DAYS IN EAST JAVA HOLDING PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH MILITARY BUPATI'S ON ELECTION STRATEGY. MURTOPO APPARENTLY BYPASSED PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION, BRAWIJAYA DIVISION AND GOLKAR MEMBERS IN DPRD, I.E. APPARATUS CONTROLLED BY HANKAM AND INTERIOR MINISTRY. SOURCE, WHO IS PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN BEING DUNNED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOLKAR, OPENLY BLAMED SUHARTO FOR ALLOWING FREE REIN TO MURTOPO'S "POLICE STATE METHODS" AS WELL AS FOR FAILING TO CONTROL HIS OWN FAMILY'S COMMERCIAL ESCAPADES.

4. THIS WEEK'S EDITION OF STUDENT NEWSPAPER MINGGUAN MAHASISWA HEADLINED ARTICLE ENTITLED "WE MUST AVOID INDONESIAN WATERGATE." ARTICLE DESCRIBED MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT POWER AND RESOURCES TO AFFECT ELECTORAL OUTCOMES IN US, INDIA AND MALAYSIA, NOTED THAT '55 INDONESIAN ELECTIONS WERE CONDUCTED IMPARTIALLY BY NON-GOI COMMISSION, BUT IN 1971 GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT MADE IT DIFFICULT TO JUDGE WHETHER TRUE DEMOCRACY PREVAILED. ARTICLE NOTES THAT SUHARTO HAS CALLED FOR HONEST ELECTION IN 1977, BUT REMARKS THAT THIS APPEAL WILL BE IN VAIN UNLESS GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTS HIS WORDS CONSISTENTLY FROM JAKARTA TO THE VILLAGES. ARTICLE CALLS UPON ELECTORATE "NOT TO FEAR VOTING AS YOU WISH," AND WARNS THAT "INDONESIAN WATERGATE" DESIGNED TO ADVANCE INTERESTS OF "CERTAIN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION" MUST BE AVOIDED IF POLITICAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARE TO BE MAINTAINED.

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5. MINGGUAN MAHASISWA EDITOR ALIL ALI (LEADER GRANTEE DUE TO DEPART JANUARY 5) CAME BY TO ASSURE US THAT HIS REFERENCE TO WATERGATE WAS NOT MEANT PEJORATIVELY AGAINST US, BUT RATHER AS WARNING TO PPP AND PDI PARTIES THAT THEY MUST BECOME ACTIVE NOW OR FACE EXTINCTION AT THE HANDS OF GOLKAR IN 1977 ELECTIONS. ARTICLE WAS PROMPTED, AGIL SAID, BY NEWS HE HAD RECEIVED FROM FRIENDS THAT ANTI-GOLKAR STUDENTS WERE BEING JAILED IN VILLAGE AREAS AS WARNING TO REMAIN QUIESCENT DURING ELECTORAL PERIOD.

AGIL ALSO SAID THAT MURTOPO HAD OFFERED HIM SENIOR POSITION IN KNPI IN EFFORT TO BUY HIM OFF, BUT HE HAD DECLINED. APPARENTLY AGIL BELIEVES HE IS SUFFICIENTLY CLOSE TO GOVERNOR NOER (WHO FUNDED HIS RECENT SEA TOUR AND HAS COMMISSIONED HIM TO WRITE BOOK ON PELITA I ACHIEVEMENTS IN EAST JAVA) TO BE ABLE TO REJECT MURTOPO'S BLANDISHMENTS.

6. MUST EMPHASIZE THAT FOREGOING INFORMATION STEMS FROM LIMITED NUMBER OF SOURCES AND DOES NOT MEAN ANY BROAD-SCALE POLITICAL FERMENT IS BUBBLING IN PROVINCE.
HOWLAND UNQUOTE NEWSOM

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